

Part 4 – Harden Not Your Heart

In part 3 we saw the Psalmist use an analogy that is commonly used in the Bible, especially the Psalms: that of a shepherd leading his sheep. And the reason the Psalmist used this analogy is because he turned from speaking of the rest that is to be found in *true* worship, to *warning* how that spiritual rest *can be lost* through *unbelief*. Therefore, just as a shepherd leads, and protects, his sheep throughout the land to find good food to graze on, so too does our Heavenly Father. For Israel of old (those who came out of Egypt) this was quite literal; for He led them, physically, through the wilderness just as a shepherd does his sheep (Ex 13:21-22). So, the Psalmist drew on the analogy, of a shepherd leading His sheep, to point out how God will lead (and protect) us too, *wherever* we are (via the Holy Spirit given to us when we believe upon, and obey, Jesus Christ). However, that's *only if* we are willing to 'hear His voice' (His Word *and* Holy Spirit) and (as this next verse will tell us) not harden our hearts to His 'voice', as Israel did when they were wandering in the wilderness. And that's where we pick up in our study...

Psalms 95

8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Now, let's remember that the subject/title of this chapter is "***Worship in View of the Rest, Anticipated***". So, this Psalm specifically addresses *true* worship of the Lord (Yehovah). And, the first seven verses we've covered explained the *spiritual* rest (peace of mind and joy in our heart) that can *only* be found when we *truly* worship our Heavenly Father. And the balance of this chapter will teach us how that spiritual rest *can be lost* through *unbelief*. And within this, a beautiful truth about true worship is revealed. As we learned earlier, when the latter part of verse 7 (which we left off with in our last study) says, "*To day, if you will hear His voice*", it's a call for us to hear God's voice ANY day He 'speaks' to you - which can be through someone planting a spiritual seed of truth, giving a sermon, in your daily Bible studies or when the Holy Spirit spiritually 'speaks' to you in your own heart (desires, emotions) and mind (thoughts). In the parable of the sower (Mth 13; Mk 4 and Lk 8) Jesus specifically likens a physical seed of grain *to the Word of God* (Luke 8:11). And He then explains the *reasons* why people reject God's Word (which is the truth, John 17:17). And *all* of those reasons *stem from unbelief*. Lack of understanding, cares of this flesh life (riches, pleasures, etc.) and 'hard times' (tribulations) are all reasons that the Word of God doesn't 'take root' in someone's heart. Thus, it's only those who have an '*honest and good heart*' that will hear the word of God *and keep it* (Luke 8:15), which is why they'll have the *patience* to bring forth the *good fruit of righteousness* (Heb 12:11). The word 'keep' in Luke 8:15 means *to hold down fast* (#2722) and has even been rendered as keep in memory, possess, retain, seize, take and withhold. And that's *exactly* what these 7-8th verses (here in Ps 95) are saying too.

The Psalmist calls us to hear God's voice (*whenever* He 'calls' or 'speaks' to us, spiritually) and *not* to harden our heart to the truth (His Word, John 17:17). And so, the *beautiful* truth this Psalm *reveals* about *true* worship is this: **not hardening your heart to the truth** (i.e. hearing and taking hold of the truth, so that you *obey* it) **is the essence of true worship!** That's why, in Ps 37:4, the Holy Spirit wrote (via David) to *delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart*. The translation here is a bit misleading, for the word '**delight**' here actually means ***to be soft or pliable*** (#6026) and the word '**desires**' actually means ***a request*** (#4862), as in your prayer requests. In Isa 64:8, the prophet Isaiah says: *But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand*. Isaiah is not just speaking physically here. Of course, our flesh body was formed by God in our mother's womb (as David spoke of in Ps 139) but our 'inner man' (heart and mind) is also a 'work of God' too. As Paul explained it: *For **we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them*** (in Eph 2:10).

And just what is God (via the Holy Spirit) creating in us? A *new heart* (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and a *new mind* (thought process), as He *prophesied* that He would (Ezek 11:19-20, Ezek 36:26-27). And the purpose is so that we may produce *good* fruits (works). As the Lord (YHVH) so forthrightly said: *And I will **give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God*** (Ezek 11:19-20). **That 'new spirit' within us is the Holy Spirit, which helps us to change our heart and mind.** And giving us 'one heart' means cleansing our heart and mind so we are not double minded, which is *wavering between* thinking with your carnal mind (your heart, the part of you that wants to sin) and your true self (conscience), which 'knows better' to sin. Many times, people *know better* than to sin, but they *cannot resist the temptation* because their heart is not clean (they don't control and put down their fleshly desires), and *that's* what causes us to be double minded (James 1:8, 4:8). And a 'heart of flesh' simply means a heart that is *not hardened*, as this Psalmist (here in Ps 95:8) is speaking about.

Paul calls the process of softening your heart (being pliable to His will and *not* your carnal lusts, Ps 37:4) to God's 'Voice' (the Word of God, i.e. His Holy Spirit) the putting on the 'new man'. And, in order to put on that 'new man' (i.e. the heart and mind that Jesus Christ helps us to create when we study His Word and strive to obey it sincerely) we must simultaneously work to put off the 'old man' *which is a hardened heart*. Therefore, *true* worship is not really about lifting your hands to God, kneeling to Him, singing to Him, praising Him or even going to Church... all those things are pleasing to Him **but not** if you are *rejecting* His Holy Spirit and His Word! Therefore, true worship is also working to put off our 'old man' *which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts* (Eph 2:22), and *not serve sin any longer* (Rom 6:6). And, we do this by *renewing in the spirit of our mind* (Eph 4:23) ***through studying God's Word*** (Col 3:10) each day,

so the Holy Spirit will help us put on the ‘new man’, which *is created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24).

So again, the essence of true worship is NOT hardening your heart to God’s ‘Voice’, which is His Word and Holy Spirit. And, as Jesus tells us (in John 6:63), His Words *are* His Holy Spirit which is what *gives life* to our very soul and spirit. And, of course, without our soul and spirit being in our flesh body, the flesh body is dead too (Ecc 12:6-7; 2 Cor 5). So, we know that the written Word of God is literally His Holy Spirit *in written form*. So, if you *refuse* to study God’s Word *and* work to truly understand it (through thinking upon it and spiritually digesting it so it changes the way you think, what you desire and what you do) then you are literally *resisting His Holy Spirit*. Likewise, studying God’s Word without keeping the subject and object in context is also resisting the Holy Spirit because that’s *twisting* God’s Word. As Jesus said to the religious hypocrites of His day, people *often* transgress God’s Laws to keep the ‘traditions of men’. And in doing so, they make the commandment of God of none effect by their tradition (Mth 15; Mk 7).

In other words, ‘traditions of men’ *can’t save anyone* because they are untrue (i.e. lies). Only the truth (God’s Word, John 17:17) gives us *eternal* life (John 6:63; John 17:3). That’s why Jesus also quoted from Isaiah (in both Mk 7 and Mth 15) who wrote: *Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but **have removed their heart far from me**, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men* (Isa 29:13). All the outward worship of God (including ‘lip service’) means **nothing** to our Heavenly Father if your heart is ‘far from Him’. And, no matter how much you think you ‘love’ God, if you are willingly ignorant of His Word (by not studying His Word and/or by believing in the ‘traditions of man’) then you don’t really love Him. As Jesus said, *If ye love me, keep my commandments* (John 14:15). That’s just the way it is. You can have adoration for the ‘image’ you have of “God” in your mind, but your worshiping the Lord (YHVH) is *empty* to the Him **if you don’t know what His Word truly says** and are thus *not obeying Him*. As Jesus also said...

*45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth **that which is good**; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: **for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.***

*46 And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?***

*47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, **and doeth them**, I will shew you to whom he is like:*

*48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock; and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and **could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.***

*49 But he that heareth, **and doeth not**, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and **immediately it fell**; and the ruin of that house was great.*

Luke 6:45-49

So, as Jesus also said in Matt 7:20, *by their fruits ye shall know them*. So, whether they are a false prophet, preach or teacher – or are simply a **fake** Christian – you will know them *by their fruits*, which means their actions. As Jesus also said...

*21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **doeth** the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

*23 And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.***
Matt 7:21-23

So, even though someone *claims* to be a Christian, and they may even believe they are, their works will show whether or not they really are. As the book of James also says...

*18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and **I will shew thee my faith by my works.***

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

*20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead?***

James 2:18-20

The bottom line is that *true* faith will produce *true* ‘good works’. But ‘good works’ alone do *not* produce *true* faith! Likewise, outward worship does not produce inward worship. But truly opening your heart and mind (not hardening it) to what God’s Word really says (not traditions of man or other perversions of it) *is what true worship really is* – and that will produce good works, with time (Luke 8:15). And, again, that’s why it’s so vital to understand what God’s Word say we are to do; for you cannot discern a fake (false) teacher, preacher, pastor (etc.) – or even a fake (false) Christian of any kind – if you don’t know what ‘good fruits’ you should be looking for. So, the truth is that **Church is Not Christianity** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/212>]. That’s not to say that all Churches are bad; but the point is that, ***going to Church doesn’t mean you are truly worshiping our Heavenly Father***. And that’s because **the essence of true worship is NOT hardening your heart to God’s ‘Voice’, which is His Word and Holy Spirit**. And that means we must become (and remain) pliable to God’s Holy Spirit and seek the truth through His written Word (the Bible) for ourselves. And, if you are fortunate to find a place that actually *does* teach God’s Word (i.e. teaches you how to study His Word *for yourself* and does not try to tell you what to believe) then certainly, you can worship ‘in truth’ there. But simply going to Church *doesn’t mean you worship God*. Because, if the truth is *not* taught in a Church, then *there’s no way* you can worship God ‘*in spirit and in truth*’ as Jesus told us to in John 4:23-24! And truly, worshiping our Heavenly Father is a *daily* habit for those who truly love Him. Studying His

Word (with understanding) brings such a *deep* joy, and peace, to your heart and mind that you cannot help but to truly praise Him in your inner man. But, if we resist what we read in the Bible – either because it convicts us, sounds ‘politically incorrect’ or even because it goes against the ‘traditions’ we’ve formerly been taught – then we truly are *resisting the Holy Spirit*, yea the very ‘Voice’ of God... and that leads us back to the 8th verse here in Psalm 95. So, let’s take a look at it again...

Psalm 95

8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Now, the word ‘**harden**’ here is a prim root that means *to be dense*, i.e. *tough* or *severe* (#7185) and it’s also been rendered as *stiff-necked* (Ex 32:9; Deut 9:6, 10:16; 2 Chron 30:8) because, just as an ox, horse or (especially) a mule will be stubborn and not obey it’s master, so too do people not obey their Creator – a point the Lord (YHWH) made very well in Isaiah 1. Today, we use the term ‘hard headed’ to say the same thing. And the word ‘**heart**’ here means *the heart* (as the most interior organ) (#3824) but is used like #3820, which figuratively is used (very widely) for the *feelings*, the *will* and even the *intellect*. So, while our heart is a part of our intellect, it’s the part of us that has free will. Thus, it’s where our feelings and emotions come from and thus, also where our intentions and motivations stem from as well. Our heart is also called the carnal mind, by Paul, when he explained that, *to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace* (Rom 8:6). If all we ‘live for’ are the ‘pleasure of the flesh’ (money, sex, pride and other lusts, etc.) then we are carnally minded and that’s what leads to sin, which eventually leads to death both physically and (eventually) spiritually too (Jame 1:13-15). As Peter explained it, in 1 Peter 4:2, we should *no longer should live the rest of our time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God*. Hardening our heart to the truth (God’s Word and Will, i.e. His Holy Spirit also) is living for the ‘lusts of men’ instead of the ‘will of God’. But softening our heart to the truth (God’s Word and Holy Spirit) is living for God’s Will, which is what brings peace, protection and blessings even while we’re in a flesh body. But eventually, that’s also what will bring us eternal life when we die, or when Jesus Christ returns (which ever happens first).

So then, this 8th verse (here in Ps 95) now references some Israelite history. The Psalmist tells us we shouldn’t harden our heart like the Israelites did ‘in the *provocation*’, which means a *quarrel* or *strife* (#4808). The *Companion Bible* notes this is likely a reference to the *second* time when Israel chided (argued) with Moses and Aaron because there was no water in the new location they went to, the desert of Zin (Num 20). And, the reason the Psalmist points to this, is because it was in the first month of the 40th year after the Exodus. So, the children had *already* chided *many times* (at least ten as of Num 14) with Moses and Aaron (and thus with God Himself, because they were His earthly representatives) by this point in time. And, God had also chastised them, many times, *because of their lack of faith and hard heartedness*, which is what led to their

rebellious confrontation with Moses and Aaron... over and over again! And keep in mind also that, this was *after* they saw many miracles in Egypt, in the Red Sea and in the wilderness too (Acts 7:36). One only has to read the book of Numbers to see just how terribly hard hearted the generation of Israelites, who came out of Egypt, were. It's nearly unbelievable that they could lack faith in the Lord (YHVH) being the *true* God after seeing so many miracles, including His miraculously feeding them for decades (with manna) and also miraculously giving them water (twice) in the wilderness. Yet, because they lacked faith, and hardened their hearts to the miracles they had seen, they didn't believe that God was really going to lead them into the Promise Land. As they said in Num 20 at Meribah...

2 And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

3 And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!

4 And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?

5 And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

Num 20:2-5

So, just because they were not led to the Promise Land *quickly* (in their opinion), and the trip along the way was rather difficult at times, they *totally forgot* all the miracles God had done (on their behalf) including parting the mighty Red Sea to let them walk over (on dry land) while the Egyptians were *totally destroyed* by the waters when they tried the same thing (Ex 14). Psalms 78 did a good job pointing this out too [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/901]. And this is what the Psalmist is warning us *not* to be like! But he also gives us another example of how Israel hardened their hearts to God's 'Voice', for he speaks of the 'temptation in the wilderness'. The word '**temptation**' here means *a testing* - either *of men* (judicial) or *of God* (*querulous*) (#4531). The *Companion Bible* notes this is likely referencing the *first* time Israel complained about not having water (Ex 17) and they not only chided with Moses but also *tempted* God to see if He *could* provide water for them. Apparently being miraculously fed quail and manna (in Ex 16) was not enough for them to believe in Him! And this was not long after they had *already* seen the ten plagues God brought upon Egypt *and* the Red Sea part! Further, this 8th verse (here in Ps 95) was also quoted by Paul, in Heb 3:8, when warning us against having a hardened heart, which will assuredly cause us to lose our inheritance of the first resurrection (eternal life) and ruling with Jesus Christ when He returns and ushers in the Millennium (Rev 20:4-6). But, the Psalmist continues on making his point...

Psalms 95

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.

The ‘**fathers**’ does mean *father* (#1), but it’s just another way to refer to Israel’s **ancestors**. And the words ‘**tempted**’ (#5254) and ‘**proved**’ (#974) both mean *to test* with the latter even referring to how someone tests metals to see how *much purity they have*. In other words, even though God had showed Israel *many mighty* works (which is what the Psalmist is referencing here in Ps 95:9), they still didn’t totally believe in Him. They might have thought He was a ‘god’ but not all believed He was *the Almighty* (Supreme) God. And so, instead of asking respectfully, they chided (argued and complained very disrespectfully) with Moses and basically demanded water so that God *could prove He really was the one and only true God...* and they did this more than once! So, they are a really good example of what we should **not** be like! And *that’s* the point the Holy Spirit is making (via the Psalmist) here in Psalms 95. Again, Paul also pointed this out in Heb 3:9...

Psalm 95

10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:

The word ‘**grieved**’ here means *to cut off*, i.e. (figuratively) **detest** (#6962). And God detested them because, even though He had freed them from Egyptian bondage *and* showed them many mighty works (like parting the Red Sea, and letting them go over *on dry land*, while the Egyptians were drowned when they tried to do so), the majority of them *still* didn’t believe in Him - and thus, they (the majority of them) were consistently rebellious. Numbers 16 even records how a man named, Korah, literally led an insurrection against Moses and Aaron (and thus against God Himself) even after God condemned them to wander in the wilderness for forty years. So, that ‘generation’ would not inherit the Promise Land *because of* their rebelliousness, which was brought about because of their *hardened heart* to (i.e. unbelief in) God’s Voice (they wouldn’t obey Him). And thus, the reason God was grieved with Israel for *forty years* is because that’s how long they ‘wandered’ around in the wilderness before entering the Promise Land. Yet, that had not been His initial plan. It was only after they’d been so dang rebellious, hard hearted and refused to obey Him (especially when He told them to enter the Promise Land) that they were condemned to remain in the wilderness (for forty more years) until that ‘generation’ (from twenty years older at the time of judgment) died off, as Numbers 14 records.

And then the word ‘**err**’ means *to vacillate*, i.e. *reel* or *stray* (waver) (#8582). It’s also been rendered as *to go astray, wander, be out of the way and deceive*. And the word ‘**heart**’ again means *the heart* (as the most interior organ) (#3824) but is also used like #3820, which also means *the heart* but is also used (figuratively) for *the feelings*, the *will* and even *the intellect*. So, while our heart (i.e. our carnal mind, as Paul calls it in Rom 8:5-8) is part of our intellect, it’s the part where *our free will is*. Therefore, our heart is where our *emotions and feelings are* and

thus it's also where our *intentions and motivations stem from*. And this differs from our 'mind' in that our mind is our *thought process* while our heart is our *desires and emotions*. So, the Israelites who came out of Egypt vacillated, i.e. reel or strayed (wavered) in their heart, from God's Will, *because* they didn't know His ways, even though Moses did work hard to help them learn God's Laws (which revealed His ways). And that all stemmed from their *unbelief* in Him through their hardened heart when hearing of His ways (Laws). And the word '**known**' here mean *to know* (properly, to *ascertain by seeing*); and it's used in a great variety of senses, figuratively, literally, euphemistically and inferentially - including *observation, care, recognition*; and causatively, *instruction, designation, punishment*, etc. (#3045). And the word '**ways**' here means *a road* (as trodden); figuratively, *a course of life* or *mode of action* (#1870). So, 'the way' of God is referring to living life according to His Laws, which reveal how to serve God instead of our carnal inclinations (1 Pt 4:1-2). So, if we don't know God's Word (the Bible) then we don't know our Heavenly Father! For His Words are His 'ways' and His 'thoughts' (John 1:1, 14, 14:6).

And then, when God says (here in Ps 95:10) that He said "*It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways*" He's referring to Numbers 14, when most of the spies who searched out the Promise Land brought back an 'evil report' (i.e. lies) about the Promise Land and caused the people to be too scared to even try to inherit it. To better grasp why the Lord (YHVH) was so angry with them – and to understand the depth of their unbelief in Him – check out what they said, *after* the spies said that: while the Promise Land was indeed good, the people who lived there were too strong for them to fight...

1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.
2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!
3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?
4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.
 Num 14:1-4

So, not only were the people scared to go fight the gentiles in the Promise Land (even though God had already promise He would help them inherit it), but they also accused God (YHVH) of freeing them from Egyptian bondage *so He could kill them by the gentiles in the Promise Land!* And even worse, they then spoke about making a captain *to lead them back in slavery* (Egypt)! Their words show how most of them (except for Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Caleb) truly didn't believe our Heavenly Father is the Supreme (Almighty) God and were incredibly disrespectful, and rebellious, to Him. And remember, this was after the Lord (YHVH) had already showed them many mighty miracles – not only in Egypt but also in the wilderness. Psalms 78 did a good

job detailing the many mighty works of the Lord, and also spoke about their lack of faith, which is what caused them to lose out on their inheriting the Promise Land. And, this is why God then said...

Psalm 95

11 Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

As Numbers 14 documents, after Israel believed the lies of the ten spies (who said the gentiles in the Promise Land were too strong for them to fight) and accused God of freeing them from slavery only to kill them off at the hands of the gentiles in the Promise Land... *and* then even tried to appoint a captain to lead them back to slavery (Egypt)... *and* were even ready to stone the few men (Joshua and Caleb) who tried to talk some sense into them (Num 14:6-10)... our Heavenly Father had truly had enough of that rebellious generation, which is why He swore that they wouldn't be allowed to enter the Promise Land. And He condemned them to 'wander' in the wilderness, for forty more years, because that's how many days the spies took to spy out the Promise Land, only to come back with an evil report (Num 14:11-38). So, the clear lesson for us, which this Psalmist (in Ps 95) is pointing out is that: **unbelief in God's Voice** (His Word and Son, Jesus Christ) **will also cause us to lose out in our spiritual inheritance**. For, just as those Israelites of old were not allowed to enter the Promise Land (even though they later tried and were slaughtered, Num 14:39-45) **because of their unbelief** (which stemmed from a *hardened heart* to the truth, God's Voice/Word), so too will all those who refuse to believe His 'Voice' that came from Jesus Christ also lose out on the spiritual inheritance, which is the First Resurrection, where we'll be given eternal life and allowed to govern the world with Jesus Christ when He returns (Rev 20:4-6). And this is why Paul ends Hebrews 3 with the following warning...

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

*19 So we see that **they could not enter in because of unbelief.***

Heb 3:12-19

While most of the generation (twenty years and older) were not allowed to inherit the Promise Land because of their unbelief, Joshua and Caleb *were* allowed *because* they had a ‘another spirit’ (Num 14:24, 38) than the others. What ‘spirit’ was that? The spirit of *belief*!!! Caleb and Joshua *tried hard* to get the people of Israel to believe in the Lord’s promise to help them inherit the Promise Land but, that only angered the people - so much that they nearly *stoned them* (Num 14:10). Yet, they were the only two, of that generation, who were allowed to enter the Promise Land – and it was because they had the ‘spirit of belief’ in the Lord (YHVH) while the others (who died in the wilderness) had the spirit of *unbelief*, and thus *could not* inherit the Promise Land. And *that’s* the way it’ll be when Jesus Christ returns. Only those who believe in the true Jesus Christ – and do not bow a knee to worship Satan when he’s on earth pretending to be ‘God’ and our ‘Savior’ [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499>] – will be allowed to inherit the earth (Ps 37:7-11). And that’s why Paul continued on, in Heb 4, to warn us...

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

*2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: **but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it...***

*...6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and **they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief**:*

7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

*8 For if Jesus [should be translated as Joshua; the man who led Israel into the Promise Land] **had** given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.*

9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

*10 For **he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works**, as God did from his.*

*11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, **lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief**.*

*12 **For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

*13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but **all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.***

*14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our profession.***

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

*16 **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.***

Heb 4:1-2, 6-16

So, let's remember the great lesson from this beautiful Psalm 95, and Paul's lesson to the Hebrews (chapters 3-4). For, we will *never* find spiritual rest (peace of mind) **if** we *don't* study, *and obey*, the Word of God - nor will we obtain *eternal* life either. And, we certainly cannot *truly* worship the Lord (YHVH) our God **if** we harden our heart to His Word (Voice), which *is truth* (John 17:17). And while singing, praising and thanking God are *a part of* worshiping our Heavenly Father, the *essence* of true worship rests upon whether or not you *truly believe* (and thus sincerely strive to obey) our Heavenly Father (His Word), *instead of* hardening your heart to Him (His Word and Holy Spirit)...

6 Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Mic 6:6-8

*13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments:** for this is the whole duty of man.*

*14 For God **shall** bring every work into judgment, **with every secret thing**, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

Eccl 12:13-14

AMEN.